



# TOWN OF EAST GRANBY

INCORPORATED 1858

EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT 06026

March 16, 2006

Members of the Labor Committee,

On behalf of the Town of East Granby Board of Finance, and the taxpayers we have been elected to represent, we are here today to speak in support of HB 5741.

The proposed increase to the threshold over which the prevailing wage mandate is applied to local building and renovation projects is a small but meaningful step. Given the construction costs today the threshold as it currently exists virtually precludes the exemption of any local project from this mandate and the reporting burdens that accompany it.

In East Granby we are currently engaged in a construction and renovation project at our town recreation complex. With the assistance of a STEAP grant, we have begun the first phase of development which, when completed, will include the construction of an activity building, storage shed, renovations to an existing structure that will enable its use as the Park & Rec Department offices and the associated driveway and parking areas needed to serve these facilities. When the building committee began its work the cost of the project was estimated at approximately \$500,000. A number of local tradesman and contractors had expressed interest in bidding on the work, at reduced rates, in the spirit of contributing to the community. When it became apparent, that due to the cost of the project, the work would fall under the prevailing wage regulations, the climate changed. Given the reporting requirements, and the fact that most of these small local contractors don't have the experience or staff to prepare and submit the required information, the eagerness to contribute turned to apprehension and reluctance. While somewhat less imposing to larger contracting companies, these requirements tend to be onerous and intimidating to smaller companies, with the result being that fewer contractors are interested in bidding, ultimately driving up the cost.

The very real impact of the prevailing wage mandate on our park project is illustrated by what we are getting for our \$500,000. Instead of a completed first phase our activity building will only be a shell with no plumbing or interior finishes. Renovations to the future Park & Rec office and the construction of the storage shed are on hold until additional funding can be secured. Had the prevailing wage threshold been at the proposed level we are confident that we would be much closer to fully completing our project.

Again, on behalf of the citizens and taxpayers of East Granby, we urge you to support the proposed increase to the prevailing wage threshold.

Rick Granger – Chair

Natalie Welch – Vice-Chair